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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/775,290 | 02/10/2004 | Yuan-Hung Liu | TSM03-0649 | 1174 |
| 25962 | 7590 | 08/03/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P. 17950 PRESTON RD, SUITE 1000 DALLAS, TX 75252-5793 | | | LEE, CALVIN | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2818 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/775,290 | LIU et al. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Lee, Calvin | 2818 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.

 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |
|---|--|

OFFICE ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. This invention application contains claims directed to four (4) patentably distinct species:

Group A (1-5, 21-25, and 41-45): A composite (coupling) spacer [class 257, subclass 333];

Group B (6-10, 26-30, and 46-50): A method of forming a composite (coupling) spacer [class 438, subclass 303];

Group C (11-15, 31-35, and 51-55): A flash memory cell [class 257, subclass 315];

Group D (16-20, 36-40, and 56-60): A method of forming a split-gate flash memory cell [class 438, subclass 201].

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicant must choose one species from each of Groups A thru B, because of:

- 1) Group A compared to Group B: The composite spacer in Group A can be made in many different methods comprising the method in Group B.
- 2) Group A compared to Group C: The spacer in Group A does not include a floating gate insulating layer over floating gate.
- 3) Group A compared to Group D: The spacer in Group A does not include such step as forming a floating gate insulating over a floating gate.
- 4) Group B compared to Group C: The spacer formation method in Group B lacks disclosing a floating gate insulating layer over floating gate.
- 5) Group B compared to Group D: The spacer formation method in Group B is differed from the cell formation method.
- 6) Group C compared to Group D: The memory cell in Group C can be made in many different methods comprising the method in Group D.

2. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37CFR 1.143).

3. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to *Calvin Lee* at (571) 272-1896 on Mondays thru Thursdays 6:30-4:30 (EST). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, Art Unit 2818's Supervisory Patent Examiner *David Nelms* can be reached at (571) 272-1787. The central fax number for the organization (where this application is assigned to) is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system at <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197.



Calvin Lee

Date: July 27, 2005